Boston, July 18, 1852.

My dear McKim:

112 It will give me the highest satisfaction to be present at the next anniversary of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, at Westchester, in accordance with the invitation so kindly extended to me in your letter; and I trust nothing will occur to prevent my being with you at that time. — The friends of the Anti-Slavery cause, in Eastern Pennsylvania, are peculiarly dear to me, and none in the world occupy a higher place in my esteem than they. Many of them are older laborers in the field than myself, and to such I am greatly indebted for their early example, and their noble persistency to the present hour. Assure all such that my heart leaps at the thought of seeing them once more, face to face. Though your anniversary will be held at a time of intense political excitement, and therefore under somewhat unfavorable circumstances, still it is our duty to bear a faithful testimony against popular corruption, whether there be many or few to give heed to it. In one point, at least, we shall have a decided advantage: — all disguises are now thrown off by the two great political parties in the land, and they stand committed to the side of slavery, nakedly, openly, impudently, and, as they say, everlastingly! Both Scott and Pierce have agreed to uphold all that was done by the Baltimore Conventions, relating to slavery; so that, by no casuistry whatever, can a vote cast for either of them be any thing else than a direct sanction to slave-holding, slave-breeding, and slave-hunting. None but those who are morally depraved or blind can give such a vote.

And now, my dear friend, a word in regard to another subject, which ought long, long since to have been explained by me. I allude to the seeming disrespect shown to your late father-in-law, and apparent disregard of your feelings, by my neglecting to answer any one of several letters addressed to me by you conjointly, respecting a certain statement made in the Liberator in regard to the operatives of Lowell being required to attend public worship. Why were none of those letters answered? As truly as that I live, it was not because I did not wish or mean to give the information desired; nor because I had taken any offence at the pertinacity with which what seemed to me a very small matter was pressed by your father-in-law — (I had utterly forgotten, at the time, that he stood in any such relation to you) — but solely owing to my inveterate, yes, I will say criminal habit of procrastination in regard to all my epistolary interchanges. When the first letter of inquiry was received from him, I fully intended to reply to it; but, like a hundred other instances, it got laid aside, lost sight of, buried beneath an quantity of accumulated and accumulating materials; and I forgot all about it. When the second letter came, the same thing occurred. When the third came, (in which, I believe, my silence was construed into a personal affront, and the Liberator was ordered to be discontinued,) I resolved to hunt up the information desired, and make the desired reply. But, alas! day after day passed without seeing my purpose executed; and then the whole affair passed from my mind, my memory being very poor.

And it is owing to the same bad habit of procrastination, that your letters were not answered. The mischief was, that I meant to write so long an explanatory letter, that I wrote none; whereas, half a dozen lines would have been better than nothing at any stage of "this strange, eventful history." I acknowledge myself immensely to blame, and that your beloved father-in-law had every reason to feel wounded (as well as yourself) at such unaccountable silence; but I solemnly declare that it was wholly unintended. There seems to have been some strange fatality about it, and I shall regret the occurrence as long as I live, especially as your father-in-law is not now living, to whom this explanation ought to have been sent long ago.

But the mail closes in a few minutes; — and I am compelled to close very abruptly. When we see each other, we will go into all the particulars. Till then, and ever more,

Yours, most affectionately, and with unbounded regard,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

P. S. My loving regards to your dear wife, James and Lucretia Mott, Oliver Johnson, Mary Grew, &c. &c.

J. Miller McKim,
31 North Fifth Street,
Anti-Slavery Office,
Philadelphia,
Pa.

Wm. Lloyd Garrison
July 1852